

Sunday, July 15, 2012—Mark Dispensationally Considered—Mark 15:26-34: “My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?”

### **Introduction/Review**

- Last week we began studying the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. We saw the following:
  - Mark 15:16-20—Jesus was crowned with thrones, spit upon, clothed with a purple robe, and mockingly worshiped as the king of the Jews.
  - John 19:17—Jesus was forced to carry his cross for a while.
  - Mark 15:21—Simon is plucked from the crowd and forced to carry Christ’s cross the rest of the way to Golgotha.
  - Luke 23:27-31—Jesus address the bewailing women on the way to Golgotha.
  - Luke 23:32-33—the two malefactor/thieve that were crucified with Christ were part of the procession. Calvary is the Latin equivalent of the Hebrew word Golgotha.
  - Mark 15:23—Jesus is offered a mixture of wine and myrrh to drink but refuses to drink it.
  - Mark 15:25—Jesus was place on the cross at the third hour or about 9:00 am according to the Jewish system of counting time.
  - Luke 23:34—Jesus utters his first statement from the cross, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do,” before the soldiers cast lots for his clothing.

### **Mark 15:26-34**

- Mark 15:26—as Jesus hung upon the cross a sign was over his head with read, “THE KING OF THE JEWS.”
  - Matthew 27:37
  - Luke 23:38
  - John 19:19-22—the chief priest dispute with Pilate over the wording on the sign.
- Mark 15:27-28—we have already seen that Jesus was crucified between two thieves. What we learn from verse 28 is that this was the fulfillment of a prophecy spoken by Isaiah.
  - Isaiah 53:12—Jesus was “numbered with the transgressors”

- Mark 15:29-32—Jesus is mocked and taunted by the chief priest and scribes as he hangs upon the cross.
  - Matthew 27:39-44—the thieves join the crowd and also being mocking Christ.
  - Luke 23:35-37
- Luke 23:39-43—records the second saying of Christ upon the cross. In verse 43 he tells the repentant thief, “To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”
- John 19:25-27—John alone records the conversation of Jesus with His mother from the cross. She was standing there with John and several other women.
  - Luke 2:34-35—these words spoken by Simeon over thirty years before must have been running through Mary’s mind.
  - When Jesus uttered the words, “Woman, behold thy son” He was not speaking about himself but the disciple whom Jesus loved (Lazarus not John according to David Reid). Jesus then addressed the disciple whom he loved by saying, “Behold thy mother.” The disciples whom Jesus loved then took Mary into his own home.
  - Even in the midst of his great anguish Jesus saw to the needs of his mother.
- Mark 15:33—when the sixth hour was come a supernatural darkness descended over the whole land until the ninth hour.
  - Matthew 27:45
  - Luke 23:44
- Mark 15:34—after three hours of darkness at the ninth hour Jesus issues his fourth saying from the cross, My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me.” It is here during the darkness of these three hours that the sins of the world are poured out upon Jesus Christ.
  - I Peter 2:24
  - Romans 3:25—the propitiation is taking place, being set forth, right here in these passages.
  - Philippians 2:8—that is the moment in human history, the moment in time where that death took place, where He gave His soul as a human offering for your sins and my sins.
  - The light of the sun went out. God the Father hung a black crepe across the sun and allowed darkness. The passages here in Matthew don't say so, but if you can remember

reading about the occasion in Exodus where God inflicted darkness on Egypt, you will recall that the Bible says it was a darkness that could be felt. It was a total blackout. That is the darkness described here, three hours of it.

That darkness was a natural sign of the predicament that Lord was in; a natural picture of the spiritual darkness caused by the unbelief of Israel and the world that placed Christ there. However, there is something else about the darkness that you need to appreciate with regard to His dying and His sacrifice. In His experience, as He hung on that cross, when the sun was darkened, time was suspended as far as He was concerned. The sun is what gives us perspective of time. It ceased to serve.

Think about how hard it is to tell the time at night. During the day, you have the position of the sun to help you determine the time of day. It's even the standard timepiece of your biological clock. Christ didn't have the help of knowing how much time there was left to endure hanging on the cross, because of the blackness brought on by God the Father. In darkness, time literally slips into eternity, a place where there is no passing of time. The reason there is darkness engulfing this solemn moment of time in the Lord's life is because, through the events taking place, God can give you understanding about the jaws of eternity figuratively engulfing the Lord Jesus Christ as He hangs on Calvary. So, in the perception of Jesus Christ, time was no longer measurable.

- Psalm 22:1—anyone standing at the foot of the cross and anyone familiar with the Bible knows that it is a quotation from Psalm 22. *What is happening?* The answer to the riddle is in Psalm 22. When the Lord Jesus Christ cries out, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?," He is literally verbalizing so everyone can hear and know what is going on in that darkness, that Psalm 22 was what was transpiring, what was being fulfilled before them.
- John 8:29—that was a new experience for the Lord Jesus Christ. Up until this moment, as He hung on Calvary, He had never known the experience of being alone and isolated and set apart.
- Psalm 22:2
- John 11:41-42—at Calvary, that is not the case. Here, He was forsaken. Here, the Father turns His back on Him and does not answer His prayer. That is something that from all eternity past had never happened.
- John 17:1-5—All the way back into Eternity Past, the Son and the Father lived for one another! The Father lived to glorify the Son; and the Son lived to glorify the Father; and the Spirit lived to glorify the Son. They all lived in perfect harmony and oneness, never missing an opportunity to serve one another. Also, the Father never forsook the Son, nor failed to hear Him and respond to Him. But now, hanging in the darkness of the cross, the Father does not respond to the Son. Why?

- Habakkuk 1:13—Jesus Christ became so identified with our sin as he hung on the cross that God the father could not even look at him anymore.
  - Galatians 3:13—Christ was made a curse for us! He suffered the wrath of Almighty God against your sin.
  - Mark 9:44, 46, 48
  - Isaiah 66:23-24
  - Job 19:26—do you know what *worm* means? That word means maggot.
  - Acts 12:23—did you know that one of the most accurate ways the pathologists investigating a crime scene have of identifying how long a person has been dead is not taking a liver temperature, but is by insect infestation? Did you know that on a normal, average-temperature day (not freezing), within 15 minutes after a person dies, insects will begin to invade orifices of the body and lay their larvae? Pathologists can tell from the development of the larvae how long that person has been dead. You've seen maggots - those white wormy things. Revolting! Think of this, and turn to Psalm 22.
  - Psalm 22:4-6—as The Lord Jesus Christ hangs there at Calvary and describes Himself as a worm. Think, for a minute, about what He is saying. He is saying: *I am a maggot. I'm in the same condition that people will be in when they are in hell.* People in hell, in the lake of fire, suffer a transformation in their soul when they degenerate back into the lowest form of human life. They will figuratively degenerate back to a pile of maggots. As revolting and disgusting as any of that can be, that is what a view of hell is like because that is the reality of the degenerative nature of sin. What the Lord Jesus Christ literally did at Calvary is to suffer in His soul, as He hung on that tree, a transformation in His soul that is the second death. He did that for you and for me.
  - John 3:14—who is the serpent in your Bible? Satan. Speaking reverently, do you understand that when He says that about the serpent, it is because Satan is the personification of every evil in all the universe? Christ was literally saying: So I am going to become the personification of evil. He then suffered that transformation in His soul that is the second death.
  - Isaiah 53:10—this is the reason that you don't have to drink of the cup of the indignation of God; the reason you don't have to spend eternity in the lake of fire, and you don't have to suffer the degenerative effects of sin in your soul. Rather, you can be edified and built up because Christ suffered it for you.
- That's what is going on in those hours of darkness. God set forth His Son for a propitiation, a fully-satisfying sacrifice for you and for me. He offers it to us as a free gift when we become

willing to believe what He believes and trust His Son. That's the answer to "Why hast Thou forsaken Me?" He cried out these words so that the Word of God could pierce the darkness and tell us what was happening there, so that we could know the answer.